MR. K. SANKARAN: I may tell the Hon Members straightway that these machines are not in use now. They were ordered and purchased at the commencement of the Department. Subsequently it was found out that they were not working satisfactorily. Then another kind of machines were got down. Still another kind was locally made. These two sets of machines are now actually in use.

Duty on hide.

393. *MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDHANAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the export duty for tanned hide is greater than that for untanned hide;

(*b*) whether the duty is levied by number and not by weight;

(*c*) whether there is any difference between the duty levied for the hide of the sheep and that of the goat; and

(*d*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the affirmative, why it is so?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: (*a*) Export duty on tanned and untanned hide is the same.

(*b*) Duty is levied by number.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) This method of assessment is simpler.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know whether the officers in charge of the Customs Stations are trained in differentiating various sorts of skins and hides?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: They are expected to know how to differentiate.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDHANAN NAIR: With reference to part (d) of the question it is stated that the method of assessment is simpler if they are assessed by number than by weight. I want to know whether the method of counting is not more laborious?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: It is a matter of opinion.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know whether the tanned skins are not spoiled by counting?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: No.

Clay Refining and Porcelain Works at Kundara.

394. *MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how long it is since the Clay Refining and Porcelain works at Kundara was started;

(*b*) the total amount invested by Government in the works; and

(*c*) the number of occasions, with dates, on which the accounts of the works have been audited?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: (*a*) $3\frac{1}{2}$ years.

(*b*) The total amount invested by Government till the end of Medam 1115 as capital expenditure on the scheme is Rs. 7,85,991-27-11.

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